

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-23 rendering the rejection of those claims moot. The remaining claims in the case are claims 24-34. Claims 24-34 are entitled to the benefit of the earliest filing date of the parent case, Serial No. 10/070,531 issued as U.S. Patent 6,788,414 on September 7, 2004. The parent case claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/153,263 filed September 9, 1999. The effective date of the claims of this application is the provisional filing date of September 9, 1999. This being the case, the cited reference Doolen U.S. Patent 6,462,816 is not *prima facie* prior art under either any section of 35 U.S.C. § 102 since its effective filing date is July 21, 2000. It therefore cannot be, and is not a reference against the remaining claims 24-34.

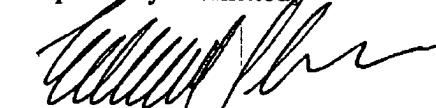
Claims 24-34 are claims wholly supported by the original filing and are cast in the terms of Applicant's application, not the language of the Doolen patent claims 1-23. Therefore the 35 U.S.C. § 112 objection simply does not apply to these claims and the 35 U.S.C. § 112 objection that was earlier issued is now moot.

Applicant has filed a Terminal Disclaimer rendering any obviousness rejection that might be made over Applicant's just issued patent of September 7, 2004 moot.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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